

### Abstract

Screening of the autoantibodies and autoantigens which are specific to Sjögren's syndrome, particularly primary Sjögren's syndrome, and provision of a prophylactic and therapeutic drug for Sjögren's syndrome, particularly primary Sjögren's syndrome, and a highly sensitive diagnostic agent for Sjögren's syndrome. The  $\alpha$ -fodrin or  $\alpha$ -fodrin fragment of the invention is an antigen to the autoantibodies specifically found in Sjögren's syndrome and this autoantigen finds application as a prophylactic and therapeutic drug for autoimmune diseases, particularly Sjögren's syndrome, or a diagnostic agent for such diseases.